

# THE ANTIQUE PHONOGRAPH MONTHLY

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## NIPPER'S LAST BARK

Nipper probably last barked in 1895, but he wouldn't be too happy with recent news coming out of RCA, the once-proud owner of the Victor Talking Machine Company. The Radio Corporation of America has just announced that it would cease manufacturing all of its traditional audio products, such as radio, tape-recorders, and yes, even phonographs! This surprising move

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**THE ANTIQUE PHONOGRAPH MONTHLY** is published ten times a year, appearing in double issues for June-July and August-September. It is mailed first class to subscribers in the U. S. A. and Canada, and via surface or airmail to overseas. APM welcomes articles and news of interest to its readers and offers its advertising pages to all at reasonable rates. Please notify us promptly of your change of address to ensure receiving your copies on time.

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Many areas of Edison's achievements remain unappreciated today, primarily because he did not write for the scientific journals, and historians have neglected the voluminous patent literature. If our readers wish to learn more about Edison's career and the chemistry of early phonograph records, this book is recommended, which is fittingly printed on acid-free paper. It is available from your local bookstore, the Edison National Historic Site, or from the publishers - The American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036, for \$5.95.

**DEAR APM:**

**Question:** I have a Victor E outside horn phonograph, but instead of a tapering tone-arm, it has a rigid, cylindrically-shaped tone-arm, with a pivoted break-away reproducer. Was this a Victor product?

**C.H.\* Wayne, N. J.**

**Answer:** Yes, it was invented by Eldridge R. Johnson, and was announced on October 10, 1902. It was first used on the Victor IV, but was also used transitionally on the early front-mount Victor machines to convert them to rear-mount. It used the "scissor-type" Concert reproducer and was not replaced by the famous tapering tone-arm until April 13, 1903. Since it was only made for about 6 months, it is fairly rare. The patent literature sometimes treats the tone-arm as part of the reproducer and sometimes as part of the horn. This new tapering tone-arm of Victor's was one of their most durable improvements.



[Con't from page 1]

seems part of a trend among American companies to eliminate their audio products divisions. RCA's 1975 line (actually not made by them) will be their last, but their record division will continue to manufacture LP's. They will also continue to make television sets and other video products, as well as thousands of other items for industry and government.

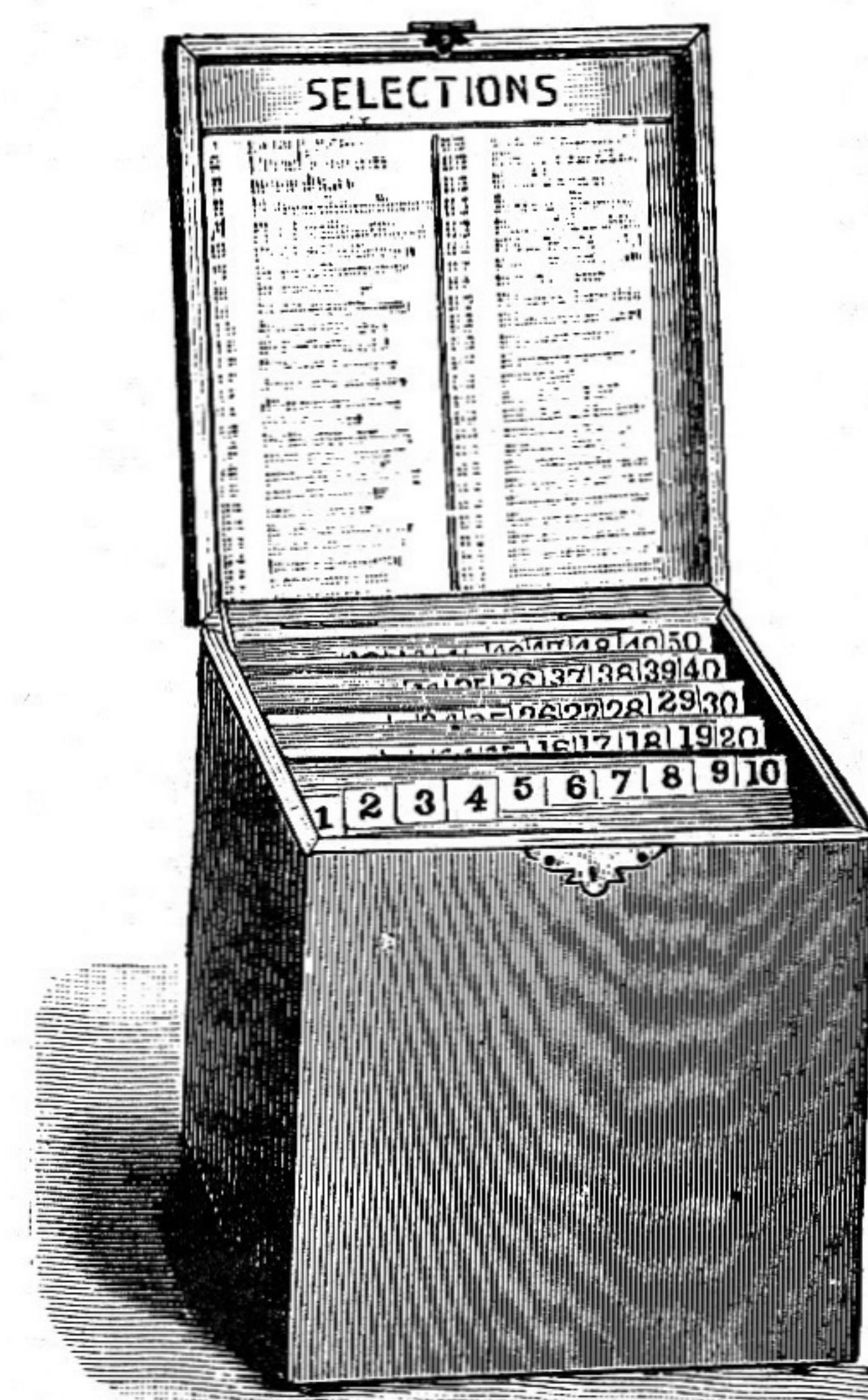
RCA claimed that their 1973 audio sales amounted to \$57.5 million and represented a net loss to the company. Competition from nearly 300 concerns, including aggressive Japanese manufacturers, was a major factor. But RCA made the additional statement that "audio products have been unprofitable throughout most of their existence." If this is a specific reference to phonographs, it broaches an interesting idea, namely that perhaps manufacturers never intended to make their profit on the phonographs themselves, but on the enormous market for their records! It would make a fascinating project to see if this was true from the very beginning, or was merely a rationalizing remark from a company running a current loss.

With Wurlitzer leaving the jukebox field and now RCA the phonograph, it is clear that the entertainment industry in the United States is undergoing some radical changes. Collectors are playing an important part in preserving these earlier devices, and Nipper would no doubt be most grateful. At one time, in early 1905, he had even graced the lid of a cigar box, as our cover pictures show this month. These beautiful full-color designs were found by collector Steve Freeman of Brooklyn, N. Y. in a salesman's sample book of the George Schlegel Lithographing Company. Alert readers will remember that this same

company issued a beautiful label showing an Edison Concert Phonograph (see APM, Feb., 1973, p. 1). The colors and embossing detail on these examples are equally magnificent, and the labels were never glued in their boxes.

There are so many "mint" cigar box labels floating around nowadays that it is difficult to explain. Were these labels actually put into mass-production or were they just printed and never used? Did Victor and Edison license the use of their trademarks or did the tobacco companies "plagiarize" them? Steve even found a cigar box label showing the legendary Caruso in full color.

Collectors should look for these memorabilia as they make fine displays in conjunction with the actual machines. There is even a large cylindrical tobacco tin with the motto, **His Master's Choice!** If any readers find more of this material, we will be glad to know. After all, the phonograph developed during the golden age of American advertising, and Nipper was once probably the world's most famous dog.



No. 680,339.

**Patented Aug. 13, 1901.**

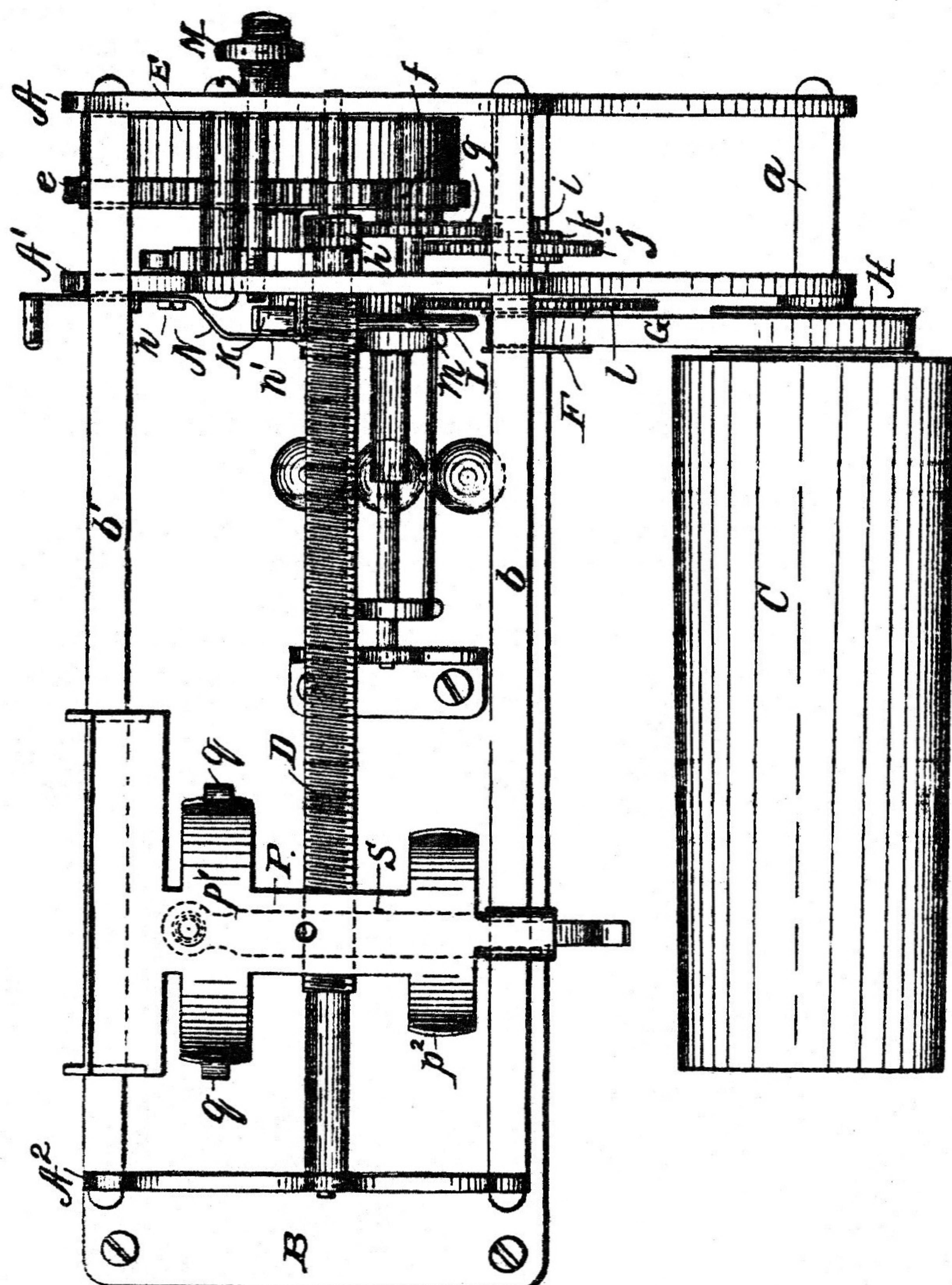
## T. H. MACDONALD.

## **GRAPHOPHONE.**

(Application filed Nov. 22, 1897.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1



# **THE FAMOUS Q GRAPHOPHONE**

**Patented by Thomas H. MacDonald**

## BOOK REVIEW

### Thomas Edison, Chemist: Byron M. Vanderbilt

It is not generally known that among Edison's other talents, he was also a master chemist and contributed substantially to the development of industrial chemistry in the United States. He pioneered in foam concrete structures (even phonograph cabinets), hydrogenized iron powder, carbon fibers, gaseous absorption of platinum, the alkaline storage battery, etc. And of course, the wax, soap, and plastic materials used in the production of early phonograph cylinders and discs. In this regard, Vanderbilt has devoted a chapter of his book to "Materials for the Phonograph."

It seems that the phonograph was Edison's longest continuing research project, ranging from 1877 to 1929. During it, he moved from his workshop at Menlo Park to labs 10 times larger at West Orange, New Jersey in late 1887. As he made more progress in the late 80's and 90's, compiling what would eventually be more than 200 patents in the phonograph field, he also maintained about 70 other different research projects. Vanderbilt details Edison's and his associates' work in the wax composition of cylinders, mentioning beeswax, carnauba wax, montan wax, and metal stearates. The formula for these changed with the years, especially when Edison switched from the "brown wax" type (1888 - 1901) to the molded "black wax" type (1902 - 1912). Much of this technology was done by Jonas Aylsworth and Alexander Pierman, who assigned their patents to Edison. The Diamond Discs, made of phenolic resin, are also discussed, along with the reasons for the core separations that frequently take place, and the difficulties of applying the paper disc labels. Although the book is somewhat adulterated (Vanderbilt is himself a chemist), Edison's failures to cope with changing technology and social change are also considered, such as his attitude toward the radio, the disc phonograph, and alternating current.

Some minor errors have crept in and should be correct. Leon Scott invented the Phonograph in 1857, not 1837; cylinder records of the 1890's played for 3 - 4 minutes, not 2 minutes as is commonly thought; Berliner's work with the spring motor was anticipated by Greenhill in England, and Capps and MacDonald in the U. S.; the Victor Orthophonic Victrola reproduced acoustically, not electrically; and Edison's trademark signature first was used in 1898, not 1900.

(Con't on page 2)

The Phonograph Collector's Handbook is still in progress and I hope to have it out later this year. Thank you for your continued patience. I am sure it will be worth the wait. We are no longer accepting advance reservations for this book.

We have now compiled what we believe is a complete list of all phonograph and record patents from 1878 to 1913. If you have a patent number which for some reason you think we might have missed, just send it in and describe the item on which it appears. In return, we will tell you the inventor's name if we have it, along with the actual name of the invention. If we do not have the patent number in our files, we will tell you and send you a free facsimile reprint from our list (of your choice). We appreciate your help. **APM**

## MECHANICAL MUSIC ITEMS

Want player piano in working condition, Northwest area. Hodge-Podge Antiques, 308 Moxee Avenue, Naches, Wash. 98937.

Orchestron Harmonette paper-strip reed-organ for sale. See p. 765, lower right picture in Bowers' Encyclopedia. Needs some pneumatic work. \$85.00 plus shipping. Call or write Steve Freeman, 2534 West 2nd Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11223.

## MECHANICAL MUSIC ITEMS

Early Gem Organetta Reed Organ, takes paper strips. Fourteen reeds, 6 broken, cabinet and pneumatics in fine condition. Original gold stenciling. \$75.00 postpaid. Write or phone for further details. Don Nelson, 50 Norton Street, Freeport, N. Y. 11520.

**Say you saw it in APM!**

## PHONOGRAPHS FOR SALE

Sales and repairs of pre-1938 phonographs and radios. Want Edison, Victor, Orthophonic, & early electric parts and machines. K. Snowden, The Talking Machine, 1833 Powell Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94133.

## PHONOGRAPHS WANTED

Looking for Zonophone outside-horn type phonographs. Complete or incomplete. Also need Zonophone parts and reproducers. Buy or trade. Don Nelson, 50 Norton Street, Freeport, N. Y. 11520.

Buying and trading for phonograph parts, parts machines, horns, records, etc. Also want music boxes and roller organs. Entire collections considered. Please send price and description with first letter. L. M. Lackey, Jr., 505 Harmony Dr., Statesville, N. C. 28677.

## PHONOGRAPHS WANTED

Would like to buy Edison Idelia Phonograph in fine condition, with original horn and crane. Prefer 2-4 minute type. Wm. Sorice, 16 Hilltop Drive, Manhasset, N. Y. 11030.

Want front-mount Victors in any condition. Also 7" disc records or any odd horn machines. Cecil Dancer, 1163 Cherry Avenue, San Jose, Calif. 95125.

## HELP! I NEED PARTS

Eleven-panel mahogany grained metal cygnet horn or mahogany wooden bell only for Edison Idelia Phonograph. Bill Endlein, 42 Blackburne Terrace, W. Orange, N. J. 07052.

Need mainspring barrel with spring for Edison Home and Edison Standard Phonograph. Also complete governor assembly for each. Will buy or trade books and catalogs. Thanks. Allen Koenigsberg, 3400 Snyder Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11203.

Need speaker and other parts for Juke Box, Model #1015, Multi-selector Wurlitzer. Call Jim Harrison, (201)899-0503 after 6 pm.

Want morning glory horn with stand. Must be in good condition, for Edison Home Phonograph. Please, under \$40.00. Pat Shannon, 717 Green St., Lansdale, Pa. 19446.

## HELP! I NEED PARTS

Cygnets or morning glory horns for Edison, Columbia and Victor phonographs. Long playing record producers for Diamond Disc and Model B Edison machines. J. L. Bailey, 1431 S. St. Louis, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120.

Want wooden horn for Edison Triumph Phonograph. Pride R. Thompson, 2038 Prospect Street West, Jacksonville, Fla. 32205. Or Call (904) 786-2228.

Need metal identification plate (rectangular, with 4 holes) for Berliner Trademark Gramophone. Ronald Pendergraft, 4205 Mowry Avenue, #50, Fremont, Calif. 94536. (7-74)

Need the repeat attachment, coin-mechanism, & coin-chute for an Edison Eclipse coin-op phonograph. Also need Victor I back-mount and tone-arm, as well as reproducer for U. S. Junior cylinder phonograph. Steve Oliphant, 5255 Allott Avenue, Van Nuys, Calif. 91401.

## RECORDS FOR SALE

78's: Bessie Smith, Basie, Bach, Bartok, etc. Send for free complete list. J. Lewis, 41 Fisher Avenue, Princeton, N. J. 08540. (8-74)

Old records on open-reel tape. Send SASE for free list. Frank Olin, 18123 80th Avenue West, Edmonds, Wash. 98020. (9-74)

## RECORDS FOR SALE

A unique way to purchase records from private collections by viewing them in a library with available reference books. No more guessing about that sideman. JAZZ, CW, 78's, LP's, 45's, TRANSCRIPTIONS. Visit the Old Tyme Music Scene, 65 Mountain Avenue, Cedar Knolls, N. J. 07927 or call (201) 539-2195. By appointment only. (7-74)

Say you saw it in APM!

## RECORDS WANTED

Need Edison Wax Amberol cylinder record No. 707 Spinning Song to complete set. Also Blue Amberol Nos. 2885, 2896, 3175. Charles Azzalina, 19 Belmont Avenue, Quakertown, Pa. 18951.

Interested in Jimmie Rodgers and Christmas 78 discs. Send listing and prices. Any history and/or parts regarding Symphonola Victrolas. Richard Wright, 2208½ Centenary, Shreveport, La. 71104.

Gotham LP entitled History Speaks! Will buy or trade. Allen Koenigsberg, 3400 Snyder Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11203.

Quo Vadis Record Album lp. Musical Highlights from the MGM motion picture, No. E103. Must be in good condition. Also movie promos. Mrs. Ronald Mrowka, RFD 1, Colchester, Conn. 06415.

## RECORDS WANTED

Want Edison 2-minute & 4-minute cylinder records. G. F. Schiffmayer, 186 Maple Avenue, Metuchen, N. J. 08840.

Want Pathé and Edison disc records, must be in perfect condition. Any artist, any size. Will pay \$1.00 each for them. Marion Roberts, RR 3, Box 39, Stockton, Ill. 61085.

Will pay \$8.00 per copy of Alfred Farland Banjo Solos on Columbia. Also want 7" Ossman, Cullen/Collins discs, and Ruby Brooks cylinders. Thanks. Ken Barnes, 261 S. Vinedo Avenue Pasadena, Calif. 91107. (7-74)

Wanted: Cylinder Phonograph Records. Any kind, any type, any amount. Ready cash for large collections. Please describe and price. Si Altman, 8970 Main Street, Clarence, N. Y. 14031. Or call (716) 634-4488. (7-74)

7" discs wanted - especially Berliner. Will buy any category or label in any playable condition. Also pre-1925 catalogs. Send lists. Thanks. Ken Barnes, 261 S. Vinedo Avenue, Pasadena, Calif. 91107. (7-74)

Need Edison 10" Gold Label long-play, #10001 and 10004. Cash or have Busy Bee Cylinders in boxes to trade. Want Edison recorder, and also Trademark Berliner. Leo Hirtz, Box 6, Bernard, Iowa 52032. Or call (319) 879-3107. (7-74)

## PRINTED ITEMS FOR SALE

Due to increased storage, advertising, and postage costs, the price of **Edison Cylinder Records, 1889-1912, With an Illustrated History of the Phonograph** Will be \$14.95 as of January 1, 1975.

**The Talking Machine Review International:** A bimonthly magazine for all interested in cylinder or disc phonographs; the firms that made them; the artists on the cylinders and discs; repairs; and all the many other facets of the history of recording. Annual subscription is \$4.00 or \$8.00 by airmail. Write for free sample copy if genuinely interested. We have an expanding list of reprints of interesting old catalogs, posters and books.

**Talking Machine Review,** 19 Glendale Road, Bournemouth, England BH6 4JA.

To add to your enjoyment of our hobby, why not try a subscription to the **City of London Phonograph & Gramophone Society?** We despatch our magazine, **The Hillandale News**, by airmail for \$6.00 per year or \$5.00 via seamail. There are six issues yearly dealing with machines, records of all sorts, artists, and biographical notes. Subscriptions should be sent to: B. A. Williamson, 157 Childwall Valley Road, Liverpool, England L16 1LA.

## PRINTED ITEMS WANTED

Desire a good copy of **From Tinfoil to Stereo. And A Guide to the Edison Cylinder Phonograph**, by George Frow. William A. Brey, 1916 Cardinal Lake Drive, Willowdale, Cherry Hill, N. J. 08034.

Need **From Tinfoil to Stereo, and The Fabulous Phonograph**. Also other books on the history of the phonograph. Please write. Howard Hazelcorn, 595 Grenville Avenue, Teaneck, N. J. 07666.

## ITEMS FOR TRADE

Will trade my duplicate record catalog supplements for yours. Send for list. Martin Bryan, 133 Main Street, St. Johnsbury, Vt. 05819.

Record catalogs for trade: Victor 1916, 1917, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923. J. H. Levenberg, 8 E. Lakeview Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237.

Will trade Edison K Reproducer or full-size original Nipper for original fancy frame for the Massani "old couple" poster. Dennis Teuscher, 681 W. 3400 South, Bountiful, Utah 84010. Or call 1-801-295-7456. (7-74)

## MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Decal for 2-4 minute Edison Standard bedplate, looks identical to original gold leaf design. \$5.48 per set postpaid. Satisfaction guaranteed. O. J. Tribe, 1040 Maxfield Dr., Ogden, Utah 84404. (8-74)

## MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

**Garage Sale!** Phono's, 78's, (some 7" Berliner); Music boxes; Radiola and Atwater Kent radios; Don Erickson, 40 Ridge Road, Glen Rock, N. J. 07452. Sept. 21, 1974, 9 am - 5 pm. Come one, come all.

**14" papier mache Nipper.** Needs paint around base: \$150.00. Cardboard sign advertising 1912 edition of **Victor Book of the Opera**: \$25.00. Victor advertising pocket watch, clean and running: \$65.00 satisfaction guaranteed.

Dave Martens, 7 Constitution Blvd., New Castle, Del. 19720. (7-74)

## MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

**Survey:** Will readers please indicate whether they are interested in a Wilhelm Furtwaengler Society? If they are, please contact: Hans A. Illing, 6112 West 77th Street, Los Angeles, Cal. 90045

Old magazines entitled **Camera Work**. Good prices paid. Cameras wanted in odd shapes, like cane, binoculars, vanity cases, guns, etc. Please describe and price. Al Weiner, 392 Central Park West, (16-R) New York, N. Y. 10025.

Preparing mailing list for sale of records, player rolls, collectors items, etc. Send full name and address and interests - list will be made up shortly. Nostalgia, 20 Harriet Drive, Whippany, N. J. 07981. (8-74)

## MISCELLANEOUS WANTED

Need information on old typewriters? Send SASE to Don Sutherland, 15 Jay Street, New York, N. Y. 10013. Will buy or trade for old typewriters needed for research.

Battery radios from the 20's. Horn speakers, tubes, etc. State price and condition. Wilford Wilkes, Box 43, Brisbin, Pa. 16620.

## ANTIQUES SHOPS

When in New York, visit **Back Pages Antiques** for quality brass and oak at reasonable prices. Located at Avenue J, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11210. Or call (212) 252-7874. Mention this ad for a friendly Hello.

On the Cape: **Old Sound**. Antique phonographs, records, accessories, etc. 535 Main Street, Harwichport, Mass. 02646. Or call (617) 432-9012. (7-74)

## SERVICES

Custom repairs. Almost any gears or parts made. Write first. **Star Phono Service**, 609 Fermery Dr., New Milford, N. J. 07646. (8-74)

**PLEASE NOTE:** All ads for the October issue must be received before September 20, 1974. Remember, when you advertise in APM, you get results!